

## REVIEW

Written by  
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External member of the Scientific jury, appointed pursuant to the Order № RD (РД) - 376/21.12.2021 issued by the Rector of *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov* University – Burgas

**Regarding:** a competition for occupation of the Academic position of Associate Professor in the Higher Education field 7. Health Protection and Sports, Professional direction in 7.4. Social Health, Scientific Specialty in Social Medicine, Health Protection and Pharmacy Organization, for the needs of *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov* University – Burgas; announced in SG, issue N.87/October 19<sup>th</sup> 2021.

The only candidate who participates in the competition is Chief Assistant Professor Katya Eftimova Popova, MD, lecturer at Healthcare Department, Social Health and Healthcare Faculty of *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov* University.

### **I. Career profile of the Applicant**

Katya Eftimova Popova has acquired her Secondary specialized education of Nursing – general Profile at the INSTITUTE FOR PREPARATION OF HEALTH STAFF WITH SECONDARY EDYICATION in 1982, and subsequently she has also completed a College Education on the same specialty in 1995, at the Vocational Medical Institute (PMI) in the town of Burgas. In 1993, she was graduated from *Paisiiy Hilendarski* University in Plovdiv, on the specialty in Biology and Chemistry, being awarded a Master Educational qualification degree. She has completed her second Master degree on the specialty in Healthcare Management at Public Care Faculty of Medical University in Sofia, in 2016.

In 2017 she has acquired a specialty in Medical Pedagogy at Medical University in Sofia.

After a successful defense of her dissertation topic Health-Social Aspects of Cares for Elderly and Older People, in 2019 she was awarded a Doctor Educational Scientific degree on the scientific specialty in Social Medicine, Health Protection and Pharmacy Organization.

The operational activity of Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova, MD, began in 1982 at the First-Rate District Hospital (nowadays, University Multi-Profile Hospital for Active Treatment in Burgas), at Internal Diseases Department, as a nurse. That position was occupied by her to 1990. It enriched her clinical experience and practical skills.

Since 1990 up to the moment, she has been working as a lecture at *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov* University – Burgas, occupying therein, step by step, the positions of a Lecturer, an Assistant, a Chief Assistant Professor. From 2000 to 2008 she was a Deputy Director of Medical College in Burgas. In that same period, she has been developing an active didactic-training and practical-applicable work.

The educational and career development of Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova, MD, undoubtedly proves that she possesses a significant experience as a lecturer who has gained a recognition as a competent specialist in her professional field. It is attested by the degrees, certificates and attestations applied to the documents for the competition: the certificates for her participations and specialization, qualification courses and training. She has got a Russian command, oral and written (on the level B1/B2) and uses French (on the level A2).

She is a member of a prestigious professional organization in the field of Public Health: i.e., Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health.

She has been actively participating in the academic life of Social Health and Healthcare Faculty, as a member of the General Assembly of the above mentioned Faculty, as well as of the Faculty Commission of Quality.

The professional biography of the Applicant and participating in the competition: Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova, and the scientific works submitted by her, demonstrates purposefulness and consistency in her researches, a personal interest in Public Health problems and Healthcare training, in full correspondence with the direction of the announced competition.

## II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition

What makes an impression is that Chief Assistant Katya Popova, MD, has prepared with correctness and precision the documentation for the competition. All the necessary documents, provided in compliance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its implementation and the Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring science degrees and holding academic positions in *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas*, have been presented by her and it gives a possibility for performing a precise quantitative and qualitative assessment on the Applicant's entire academic development. The necessary documentation of proof regarding publication activity and citations of scientific works, has also been enclosed to. Along with the documents which are obligatorily required, the material of proof also contains additional references, certificates, attestations and others, attesting all the circumstances related to Applicant's qualification, professional activity and achievements.

### III. Assessment of Applicant's scientific works

#### *General characteristics of Applicant's scientific works*

The scientific production of the Applicant for the competition is multi-aspect, being represented by totally 49 scientific works. The scientific works as object of reviewing, after the defense of the dissertation, are totally 44, presented as follow:

#### **PUBLICATION ACTIVITY** (authored or co-authored)

<b>SCIENTIFIC WORKS</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
<b>Total number of publications</b>	<b>49</b>
Publication related to the dissertation	5
Monographs	
• authored	1
• co-authored	1
Publications in referenced and indexed in worldwide known data bases containing scientific information (Web of Science)	5
Publications and papers, published in non-referenced journals with scientific reviewing or published in edited co-author's volumes	34
Authored	7
First author	13
Schoolbooks and school appliances /co-authored/	3

The subject-matter of *Katya Popova's authored monographic work entitled scientific work Geriatric Care –realities and perspectives. Medical-social aspects* is of a marked actual importance in the context of the increasing need of adequate geriatric care. The monography contains the problem-solving guidelines: the medical-social problems related to the people of the so-called "third age" and the role of the nurse in providing a high-quality medical assistance to the elderly and older people. The Author presents herein her own Model of Integrated Healthcare Organization for elderly and older people, which shall guarantee an uninterrupted process of care and supporting services, realized in different environments. Methodical

guidelines for Expert's competences in geriatric care in the social communities have been also elaborated.

*The monographic work **Quality of life related to health of people suffering from chronic disease** is co-authored.* The work is dedicated to the interrelation between the qualitative health-social care and services, and the level of satisfaction of quality of people suffering from chronic diseases. The application of an integrative multidisciplinary approach gives a possibility to people suffering from chronic disease to keep independence in their everyday activity and to have a positive feeling for a good quality of life. Program for training of people suffering from chronic non-infectious diseases have been proposed, in order to prevent the complications and to increase the motivation for a control on and the management of such diseases.

39 scientific publications have been submitted, of which 7 ones published in international editions, being 3 ones in English. All the editions are scientifically reviewed.

The Applicant for the competition manifests herself in her publication activity as the only author or first author in more than 50% of the total number of scientific works. That ascertains her serious scientific presence as a researcher and a scientist. Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova's co-authorship with other colleagues in many of the publications confirms her qualities of coworker: she is in search of common points of contact and collaboration in the work performed by an interdisciplinary team. There is also a Declaration of co-authorship, correctly applied to the documentation.

What makes an impression is that the distribution of her scientific works by years is rather regular and it suggests a purposeful and well planned scientific development of the Applicant. A substantial part of the publications submitted by her is in acknowledged scientific editions as: „Journal of Process Management. New Technologies“, „International Journal Knowledge“, „Scripta Scientifica Medica“, „Journal of Biomedical & Clinical Research“, „Management and Education“, „Trakia Journal of Sciences“, „Nursing“, „Social Medicine“ and others. The List containing the publications is correctly described and the required material of proof applied hereto.

The scientific works of Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova, MD, contain defined scientific contributions to the medical theory and practice and cover a broad set of scientific problems. Her works point out actual and significant problems in that field, fully corresponding to the special character of the announced competition; and I completely approve that. The contributions can be summarized in the main directions, as follow:

1. **Public health, risk factors for health, health prevention and promotion** – health needs; prevention from socially significant disease; children`s and pupils` health protection; quality of life of risk groups of population; bioethical aspects in health protection; health education in the communities. *The contribution results in this aspect are of applied character.* They are a scientific base for an actual scientifically argued approach of a contemporaneous health policy for prophylactics of the socially significant diseases, health behavior risks and health promotion. The scientific elaborations N.N. 2, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 26, 28, 38, 39, 40 treat actual problems in this direction of scientifically applicable importance.

• **2. Healthcare** - integrated medical-social care for elderly people, for people suffering from chronic diseases; healthcare organization and management; healthcare quality. *The contributions and merits in this aspect are given in the publications N.N.1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 15, 19, 22, 24, 29, 31, 35.* The elderly and older people and their families` needs of health and social services have been examined and analyzed, in order to ensure quality of care and satisfaction of users. A Model of organization of integrated care for elderly and older people has been created, which ensures qualitative healthcare and supporting services, focusing on the social community (on the level municipality, local community).

**3. Quality of the medical education** – professional preparation of healthcare specialists in compliance with the strategies for quality and the increased needs of the society. *The contributions and merits in this aspect are given in the publications N.N. 5, 11, 13, 23, 24, 25, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 43, 44.*

The perspectives of the proposed contemporaneous healthcare concepts and models have been analyzed for medical specialists' formation and motivated realization. The place and the role of the training process and its efficiency have been scientifically grounded. Only a solid preparation should guarantee the students' professional growth, satisfaction, being a premise for greater requirements for improvement of the medical education quality.

Strategical guidelines, pedagogical methods and means for achievement of a high quality training on the main subjects studied in the specialties included in Healthcare professional direction are distinguished by their contribution character.

● **Scientific activity**

Chief Assistant Katya Popova has participated in 17 scientific forums, of which: 2 National and 15 International congresses and conferences. She has been a moderator on an International Conference. She has participated in the organized scientific committees of the students' scientific sessions being a scientific advisor of 16 students' reports presented at scientific sessions. 6 reports have been classified in prize places by the Scientific Jury.

● **Participation in projects implementation and leading**

K.Popova's participation in scientific-research projects is impressive. She participates in 18 projects, of which: International 1; National educational 7; Intra-university 10, being a leader of one of them. Her interest in projects participation is durable and contiguous, and, as a result from it, she has been gained a significant experience. The projects, which she has participated in, provide a significant contribution to Public Health, Geriatric Care and Innovative approaches in students' training.

**Reflection (citation) of Applicant's publications in National and Foreign literature (publication image).**

There are totally 29 citations in Bulgarian and Foreign prestigious editions, indicated in Applicant's reference, which confirms the quality of the realized scientific production of the Applicant for the competition. The required documentation of proof has been submitted hereto.

● **Total assessment of the Applicant's conformity to the obligatory conditions and obligatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators**

As regards to conformity, necessary for the implementation of the minimum national requirements, and the Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring science degrees and holding academic positions in *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas* ones, it becomes evident, by the List and the documentation of proof for the scientific works and citations, that Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova **not only corresponds, but even exceeds the required minimum of points in the single groups of indicators /s. Table 1/.**

**Table 1. Required minimum of points by groups of indicators for the occupation of Associate Professor Academic position, to be covered by the Applicant:**

Group of indicators	Contents	Associate Professor (number of points as a Minimum, according to national requirements national	Associate Professor, according to the Rules of <i>Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.</i>	Completed by Katya Popova (number of points)
A	Indicator 1	50	50	<b>50</b>

<b>B</b>	Indicators 2	-	-	-
<b>C</b>	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100	<b>100</b>
<b>D</b>	Sum of the indicators form 5 to 9	200	220	<b>744</b>
<b>E</b>	Sum of the indicators from 10 to 12	50	60	<b>165</b>
<b>E</b>	Sum of the indicators from 13 to the end		20	<b>265</b>

#### **IV. Assessment of her didactic-training activity**

The didactic-training activity performed by Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova, MD, is related to training: lectures, exercises, clinical practice and pre-graduate internship of students at Public Health and Healthcare Faculty, on the specialties in Nursing, Obstetrician, Physician Assistant and Healthcare Management, eight subjects included. She has been actively participating in commissions dealing with preparation of documents on procedures related to program accreditations and post-accreditation control; on the elaboration of didactic documentation: qualification characteristics, curricula, syllabi. She is a member of the State Examination Board for Nursing specialty. She has been also actively participating in the post-graduate training by performing courses and elaborating the programs for post-graduate qualification.

The submitted Reference on Workload certifies that within the period of 2016/2017 -2020/2021 academic years, Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova realized the average workload with students of the above mentioned specialties, as follows: lectures – 70-100 classes, exercises – 369 classes, clinical practice – 161 classes: a proof that the necessary workload has been provided for the competition.

#### **IV. Personal impressions**

I would like to express my excellent personal impressions of Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova: I know her by professional-related manifestations in the last years. She is an erudite lecturer and an ethical colleague. The applicant for the competition has put much energy and many efforts in her professional development and has achieved significant results from. Until the moment, her academic career is a logical result from her entire scientific and training activity.

I wish her a successful development of these scientific directions which she has turned in her interest of researcher.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

According to the criteria for assessment of applicants for occupation of Associate Professor Academic position at *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov* University – Burgas, Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova corresponds to the scientometric indicators, significantly exceeding the minimum national requirements necessary for it.

Taking into account the Applicant's scientific achievements and manifestations, adequate to the development of the competition, her active lecturer's work, her participation in scientific projects and gained prestige, **I am giving with conviction my positive vote considering that Katya Popova, MD, corresponds to all of the requirements for occupation f Associate Professor Academic position.**

To this end, I am proposing to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to adjudge to Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova, MD, the Academic position of Associate Professor on the scientific specialty in Social Medicine, Health Protection and Pharmacy Organization, Professional Direction in 7.4. Public Health, Higher Education field 7. Health Protection and Sports, for the needs of Public Health and Healthcare Faculty of *Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov* University – Burgas.

On February 19<sup>th</sup> 2022  
In the city of Plovdiv

The Review was written by:

/Prof.Doct.Biyanka Tponyova/

